

RAIDERS HIT FATAH IN HEART OF BEIRUT

Katchalski elected



Zalman Shazar, Third President of Israel, congratulates Prof. Ephraim Katzir, who will become Israel's Fourth President next month. The President-elect and his family called at Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem last night. President Shazar later held a reception for Prof. Katzir, attended by the Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet, and heads of the Knesset factions. (See story p. 3). (Photo Emka)

CYPRUS INCIDENT

Security man, damaged airplane back in Israel

Jerusalem Post Staff
LOD AIRPORT. — An Israeli security man and the El Al airliner he defended at Nicosia Airport arrived here yesterday. Both arrivals were not expected by airport officials.

The security man, one of three involved in the incident at Nicosia Airport, was the first to arrive. Young, with red, curly hair, he was aboard the afternoon El Al flight from Cyprus. Airport officials were not aware that he had been freed on bail by a Cypriot court, and only discovered his presence when a group of other security men greeted him at the airport. The welcoming party immediately told him to say nothing, according to newsmen at the airport.

after dusk, with three of its four turboprop engines operating. Members of the crew who flew it back, including mechanics and engineers sent to Cyprus to inspect it and make preliminary repairs, said that the aircraft could have made the flight on two engines, had it been necessary.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban telephoned Ambassador Timor to congratulate him personally on his cool and confident handling of the episode.

(Eyewitness report, Makarios statement, page 4)

3 killed on roads

LEBANESE PREMIER RESIGNS

Jerusalem Post Arab Affairs Reporter
Lebanon's Prime Minister Sa'eb Salam last night submitted his resignation to President Suleiman Franjeh following an extraordinary Cabinet session, summoned to discuss Israel's pre-dawn raid on Beirut and Sidon yesterday.

An official statement issued in Beirut said that President Franjeh will decide today on whether to accept Salam's resignation. Salam, 68, took over the Premiership on October 1970 at the height of a Lebanese-terrorist crisis over Israel's retaliatory raids against the sabotage movement's activity in southern Lebanon.

Salam had been often criticized by Lebanese rightist political circles for maintaining a tolerant government attitude towards the terrorists. Yesterday the terrorists accused the Lebanese Government of having collaborated with the Israelis against them. In a broadcast over their radio in Dera'a, southern Syria, the terrorists said that the Israelis "could not have entered Beirut" without the Lebanese Government's complicity.

Salam's resignation was announced shortly after he attended a conference between President Franjeh and Hassan Sabry al-Khouly, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's personal envoy, who arrived in Beirut in the aftermath of the Israeli raid in Lebanon.

In a statement broadcast over Beirut Radio Salam said that his country's interest called for his resignation — meaning also that of his entire Cabinet.

Salam appealed to the Lebanese people to rally behind President Franjeh. His call came as thousands of demonstrators marched in Beirut's streets in support of the terrorist movement. A large crowd of these demonstrators surrounded the American Embassy to which security reinforcements were rushed amid terrorist claims about the Embassy's complicity in Israel's raid yesterday.

REPORT TO CABINET

The Cabinet met for one hour at

By HIRSH GOODMAN
Jerusalem Post Military Correspondent

A select force of paratroops and naval commandos attacked seven targets in the heart of Beirut early yesterday morning in one of the most daring raids in the annals of Israeli military history.

A small task force of men killed three top Fatah leaders in their beds, while a second force demolished a seven-storey building which served as the headquarters of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in the centre of the city.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed in the operation. The name of one was released. He was Segen Avida Shur, 22, from Kibbutz Shuval. Two other soldiers were wounded. They were ferried by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital and underwent surgery. Their names were not released.

Other targets attacked yesterday include two terrorist workshops and munitions plants on the edges of the city, and the Fatah headquarters in the south of the town which serves as the main headquarters for all terrorist actions in the area. A garage and vehicle repair shop north of Sidon on the Lebanese coast was also attacked and destroyed.

Over 50 terrorists are thought to have been killed or wounded in the raid. Several Lebanese soldiers who attempted to intervene were also wounded. The main blow suffered by the terrorists was the death of three of their top leaders, Mohammed Youssef Najjar, Kamal Nasser and Kamal Adwan.

DETAILS SECRET

The operative details of the raid are clouded in secrecy. The force arrived and left by sea, landing on the Beirut beach. While one group of raiders attacked the Fatah headquarters and workshop in the southern section of the town, several other groups raced to five other destinations in the Lebanese capital.

The men, who spent nearly two-and-a-half hours in the town, are reported to have been dressed in civilian clothes during the attack, and were transported to their destinations in Lebanese taxis which had been hired for the purpose.

The seven-storey headquarters of the Democratic Front, situated on the corner of Rue Ghana and Rue Universite in the southern suburbs of the town, housed the main operations centre and offices of the organization. It was also the most heavily guarded of the targets attacked, and it is here that the Israeli forces suffered the casualties.

At a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, Chief of Staff David Elazar said the raid was part of Israel's offensive policy against the terrorist movements. It came in reply to rising terrorist activity from Lebanon and abroad over the past month.

Rav-Aluf Elazar would not say whether the raid was an answer to the terrorist attack in Nicosia

active officers of the terrorist organization, and their loss is going to have a profound effect on the cooperative capability of Fatah. The three were killed in their beds, while sleeping with their families in three flats, situated in two apartment blocks in the northern suburb of Dar el Patwa in Beirut. The Israeli forces that took part in the operation were given strict instructions to avoid clashes with

Lebanese Army regulars, unless they interferred with the operation, but clashes were unavoidable, the Chief of Staff said, and the Lebanese are known to have suffered several casualties.

Army sources said yesterday it was highly doubtful whether there were any civilian casualties, but he noted that the targets attacked were in an urban area, and there might have been casualties.

Rav-Aluf Elazar said that the Lebanese authorities would have to draw their own conclusions from the raid. He noted that Lebanon was one of the very few countries in the world today where terrorists are allowed to operate in total freedom, and said that the country had become the centre for the training of foreign nationals in terrorism.

He did not believe that yesterday's operation would put an end to all terrorism emanating from Lebanon, but felt "it was a serious blow" which would leave its mark.

One Army source described yesterday's raid as the opening of a new page in Israel's relations with both the terrorists and the Lebanese. No longer are only the terrorists sent into action in danger of being killed, and no longer is the capital of Lebanon immune from retaliatory action. They must reach the conclusion that nothing and nobody is safe anymore, he said.

BEIRUT MAY ACT

No immediate action by Lebanon to restrain terrorism is expected by observers here. But it is generally believed that the Lebanese Government will institute a gradual process aimed at curbing terrorist freedom in the country. No government can accept a foreign power doing its work for it, one official said yesterday, and since the Lebanese are hardly in a position to challenge Israel's capability of doing so, it is logical that they will choose to clamp down on the terrorists instead.

The raid took place shortly after one o'clock yesterday morning, and by six a.m. all forces had returned safely to base. The soldiers arrived at Beirut — over 100 kilometres from Rosh Hanikra — by missile boat and paddled to shore in rubber dinghies.

The danger to the men at all stages of the operation were immense — two-and-a-half hours dispersed in small groups in the capital city of hostile country. All in all it was described by knowledgeable sources yesterday as one of the most daring operations to date, and the I.D.F. has a long history of unique operations.

The last major Israeli raid into Lebanon was on February 21, when Israeli forces — which also arrived by sea — attacked seven terrorist concentrations and killed over 40 terrorists. Since then there have been nine separate terrorist actions by terrorists trained in Lebanon. The latest was Monday's attack on the Israeli Embassy and an Arkia plane in Nicosia. Beirut has also proved a haven for terrorists who

'The leader is dead'



Bedroom of Fatah leader Kamal Nasser, who was killed in this Beirut apartment during raid by Israeli soldiers yesterday. (AP radiophoto)

Jerusalem Post Arab Affairs Reporter

Terrorist radio stations last night issued frantic warnings to sabotage cells allegedly operating inside Israel and the administered territories, ordering them to scatter.

The calls, on the terrorists' radio stations, came after the terrorists had announced that important documents had been captured by the Israeli troops which raided Beirut before dawn yesterday.

The early-morning attack cost the terrorists three of their top leaders. Most important of them was Mohammed Youssef Najjar, code-named Abu Youssef, the alleged mastermind of the Black September massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

The documents were said to have been taken from the home of Kamal Adwan, another of the Fatah commanders killed in the Israeli raid. All three men were close associates of Fatah boss Yasser Arafat, who yesterday went into seclusion to mourn his comrades.

One of the panicky announcements, read over the Sawt al-Thawra al-Palastinia station, stated: "From Alef to Abu Antar. The leader is dead. Be on maximum alert. Order your comrades to disperse all over the country. Allah be with you."

Abu Youssef recently succeeded Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), as the number two man in the Fatah hierarchy. He was identified by Mohamed Daud Oudeh (Abu Daud), the Fatah chieftain recently captured in Jordan, as the head of "Jihaz ar-Rasd," the Fatah intelligence bureau which controls Black September.



Abu Youssef

Jordan shortly after the 1967 war, for subversive activity. Nasser, a law and political science university graduate, was an outspoken foe of the Hashemite monarchy, often calling for King Hussein's overthrow.

Several other key terrorist figures reportedly were wounded in the Israeli raid, including Ziad el-Helou, one of the four Black September



Kamal Nasser

Itim identified the security man as Shmuel Shaya, 23. He was charged in Nicosia City Court with carrying a gun, and freed after he posted bail. The first thing he did after arriving was to call his mother in Kiryat Motzkin.

Officials in Jerusalem said last night that Israel had made efforts to secure his release "with no conditions attached." The petitions had been made at the highest levels of Cyprus government, it was understood.

The freed security man captured one of the Arab terrorists in the Nicosia airport terminal. Two other security guards, who saw action near the airplane, were allowed to return to Israel early this morning.

The crippled airliner — an Arkia inland airlines Viscount under lease to El Al — arrived at the airport

Three persons were killed and a fourth seriously injured in road accidents at Zichron Ya'acov and Beersheba yesterday afternoon.

Amiel Cooper of Givatayim and an as-yet-unidentified woman were killed in a collision between two cars on the Coastal Highway near the Zichron Ya'acov turnoff. Cooper, 53, was driving one of the cars. The driver of the other vehicle, Baruch Grotzek of Kiryat Bialik, was taken to Hadera's Hillel Yoffe hospital in serious condition.

In Beersheba an elderly man was fatally injured when a truck struck the bicycle he was riding at the intersection of Derech Eilat and Rehov Assaf Simhoni. The man, aged about 70, died on the way to hospital. Police had not identified him as of last night. (Itim)

The Cabinet met for one hour at lunchtime yesterday to hear reports from the Defence Minister and the Chief of Staff on the raids into Lebanon and the terrorist attacks in Nicosia on Monday. No details at all were released. The Chief of Staff was seen leaving the meeting with a wad of maps and charts.

The Cabinet Secretary issued a short statement saying that Premier Meir had expressed her condolences, on behalf of the Government, to the bereaved families, and that she wished the wounded soldiers a speedy recovery.

The Prime Minister also congratulated the Chief of Staff and asked him to convey the Cabinet's greetings to the soldiers involved in the action. "She also conveyed her good wishes to the security personnel involved," the Cabinet statement read.

Mrs. Meir also conveyed the greetings of the Government to the President-elect, on his election.

On Monday, ministers convened in a top-level consultation to approve in advance the I.D.F. action, it is reliably learned.

to the terrorist attack in Nicosia Monday night, but this is not thought likely since a raid of these dimensions needs long planning.

The three Fatah men killed in the raid were among the top oper-

members who assassinated Jordan's Prime Minister Wasfi Tel in Cairo in November, 1971. Helou last week escaped injury in an apparent assassination attempt, when a bomb exploded in a car similar to his own in a Beirut street. Yesterday he was shot in the chest and the shoulder.

managed to escape after executing actions abroad, and for those released following Arab diplomatic pressure or acts of extortion by terrorist groups.

'ISRAELIS POSED AS TOURISTS'

THE LANDING AREA

By ANAN SAFADI
Jerusalem Post Arab Affairs Reporter
and agencies

Israeli agents — who arrived in Beirut last Friday as "foreigners" bearing passports of various countries — waited on the seashore with six rented cars which took the Israeli raiders into the Lebanese capital on their deadly blitz mission early yesterday morning, Lebanese Government statements indicated yesterday.

Israel's strike inside the capital and the raiders' swift and successful getaway stunned the inhabitants. A Lebanese Defence Ministry statement said four Lebanese were killed and 29 wounded in the raid on several nerve centres of the Palestine terrorist movement in both the capital and in the southern city of Sidon.

The dead included two security men and the wounded an army officer and nine security agents. The ministry made no mention of terrorist casualties, which are reported to have totalled around 50.

But the Defence Ministry did say that three buildings and three plants used by the terrorists in Beirut and Sidon were blown up by the Israelis.

Government statements after the raid said the Israeli agents presumably arrived in Beirut on Friday and numbered at least six persons who reportedly possessed British, Belgian, Indian and West German passports.

The six were suspected in Beirut of having provided the raiders with the six rented Mercedes and American saloon cars, waiting for them on the shore shortly after 1 a.m. This landing, it was stated, coincided with that of another unit by



Seashore of Beirut, with its modern apartments and the Continental Hotel, left, is in the area near which the Israeli raiders apparently landed early yesterday morning. The thoroughfare is Chourane St. which runs from the shore to the city centre. (Eupra-Israel)

helicopters on the southern suburbs of the city, and a naval landing unit at Sidon.

Two units of soldiers, variously reported as having been dressed in camouflage uniforms, civilians, with some "dressed like hippies," sped in the cars to Verdun and Fakhani streets to blow up three buildings,

including the headquarters of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. One "hippie" unit was reported to have driven up to the eight-storey building on Verdun street to hunt down the three top Fatah leaders, Najjar, Adwan and Nasser, who lived in adjoining flats.

An eyewitness, who lives on the first floor of the building, told reporters that he had seen a "blonde girl" emerging from the building with the raiders after the attack.

The Lebanese authorities withheld comment for several hours. Then they issued a morning communique giving brief details of the raid. About noon a second announcement gave the Lebanese casualties and stated that six cars used by the Israelis were found abandoned near the beach.

Subsequently, official statements said the six who had rented the cars disappeared together with the raiders after spending the weekend at two hotels near the sea.

The terrorists had announced that the Israelis depended on "elements of U.S. intelligence in the Beirut area" and claimed that "many cars" went to the American Embassy (near the Beirut shore). But the U.S. Embassy swiftly denied this, and the U.S. State Department spokesman in Washington yesterday followed up with another denial.

Arab governments yesterday all roundly condemned the raid and announced their solidarity with Lebanon and the Palestine terrorist movement. Cairo Radio asserted that the Israeli operation "was not an act of confrontation or fighting, but a Mafia-type gang strike."

At the building where the three terrorist leaders were killed, the Israeli raiders burst after burst from sub-machineguns to head off Lebanese special police while they entered the place.

Using handgrenades and their automatic weapons the Israelis killed Kamal Nasser, spokesman of the (Continued on page 2, col. 2)

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